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Abraham Lincoln  
to  
Woodrow Wilson and His  
Cabinet



AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED THROUGH

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PASTOR OF

THE CHURCH OF THE SOUL

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## Inuocation

O, thou eternal One whom we call God; Whose infinite intelligence has fashioned, Whose divine purpose has guided, and Whose eternal love rules all nations and all worlds, unto Thee we must ever turn in praise—praise for all Thy works; for the appointed ways of Thy worlds and systems, and for those suns of splendor that rise to their appointed places in the heavens and win the stars to follow them in their heights. We praise Thee for this little speck of dust, the Earth, whereon human beings for the time must dwell.

Endowed with attributes that are like the earth and are like Thee, vibrating between the jungle and the archangel, Thy children seek to find the way, and as Thou hast given teachers, prophets, seers, and a Savior, as unto them Thou hast given intelligence to know and souls to aspire, oh, may they learn after devious nights of wandering, after terrible sins of discord and warfare, after complaint and discontent, that Thy law is supreme and Thy love supernal.

Oh, may the nations of the earth—those jarring nations that seek through physical extermination to find the way of power—realize that only by the appointed paths, only through the ways that are full of wisdom and justice, can peace be found at last. May those people, striving selfishly to control the earth and its products, learn that there comes unto the destroyer destruction; that those who take up the sword must perish by the sword, and that only unto the voice of love, a fraternity of truth and of justice, can Thy Will respond.

May we in this hour give words that shall reach the hearts of those who have power to bear forward Thy message to this Nation. May those entrusted with power be enabled by Thy inspiration and their own thoughts of human justice to bear forward such things as are necessary for the welfare of the people of the Nation and of the world.

And may Thy divine baptism rest upon this little congregation and upon all people until they shall come forth in the radiance of that new morning wherein the welfare of humanity is the highest and greatest treasure that they can find. Amen.

## Address

It has been announced to the few who have assembled here that this address from Abraham Lincoln to the President, Woodrow Wilson, and his Cabinet, is to be given for the express purpose of bearing that message to those who are now the official representatives of the people of this country. It is a half-century since these words were sent to Congress by the one addressing them: "I would warn my fellow-countrymen, especially the workingmen of this country, against the *ever-encroaching power of capital*." Needless to say that fifty years have more than justified that warning.

The nation, in the election and inauguration of Woodrow Wilson, and in his appointment of his Cabinet, has entered upon a crisis equal in importance, if not as imminent in danger, as the period that followed the nomination and election of the one who held that office half a century ago.

This is the third important crisis in the history of the country. The first was the birth of the nation, with its great heart-throbs of hopes for humanity, with its acceptance of the divine equality of human beings, and with its endeavor to embody in its constitution and laws that which would bear freedom forward to the end of time and to the uttermost parts of the earth. One serpent alone remained in that paradise that Freedom had founded for herself, and that was human slavery. It was contrary to the advice of the highest statesmen of the land at that time that slavery was allowed to become a corporate and integral part of the government. From that time forward its dangers increased, its perils multiplied, until at last it came to the crisis: "Shall there be extension of slavery or not?" You know what followed: that the Missouri Compromise did not avail; that the Kansas and Nebraska struggle did not avail, and that at last there came the crash, when the country was called upon to face the war which the serpent raised against the integrity of the Union.

It is always oppression that strikes the first blow, even though it be in a long series of tortures through bondage and oppression; it is always the oppressor who is the aggressor, even though it be through the fiery furnace wherein men's lives are shriveled and seared, through the dark damp of the mine wherein suffocation ensues, or through those various manufactories and mills where lives are ground out by methods that love of wealth can always invent.

Fifty years have passed, and the country now is on the eve—nay, is in the very beginning—of another great crisis. Probably there has been nothing exactly parallel to this, unless it were the Reform Parlia-

ment under Peel and the abolition of the "corn laws" when Great Britain was shaken to its very center because of the oppressions that had ensued owing to the price of bread.

With you to-day who have been called upon to take upon yourselves the sacred trust of the government of this country, there is a broader and wider and more inclusive and more imminent problem than that confronting the Reform Parliament, than that of the abolition of slavery—than even that of the war of the rebellion. It was not the rebels that were the chief source of disquiet and uncertainty during that terrible war. Perhaps you are sufficiently familiar with the history of that time to know that the money power of the world was the chief obstacle to the earlier solution and close of the war. Perhaps you know that the money power of the world constitutes the power that can wage war or declare peace; that can bring to any nation for the time being financial crises or panics, or declare that the monetary situation is easy and money abundant. And for fifty years the monetary power has continued to use all its cumulative influence to extend its force, and to make stronger the strongholds that were then in existence and that have multiplied to an alarming degree ever since.

You have approached this hour of your election to the presidency with great reverence for the country and its laws. As a student, Mr. President, you understand the great workings of these constitutional principles throughout the land and throughout the world. You are aware that the world has turned to this nation as the haven of the oppressed and the downtrodden. You are aware that multitudes of laboring people have come to this country hoping to find here greater respite from harrowing toil and greater reward of labor. You are aware into what channels their labor has been turned. You fully understand in looking out upon the country and upon its record for fifty years what has been the result of the increased concentration of capital in the hands of a few men or a certain class of men, and of the increased domination over all matters that pertain to the livelihood of the people.

You have entered upon the solemn duties of the hour with a promise that there shall be a modification of the tariff. Free commerce is the only safety for a free people. "Infant industries" have ceased to exist in this country, and they have become a monstrous power of tyrants who love wealth and its power. You have promised that there shall be a proper protection of the agriculture of the country and its interests. We trust that you will bear in mind that the only obstacle to the success of the agriculture of this country is the enormous holdings of lands by corporations, thus robbing the nation and the people, and in the high cost of transportation from producer to consumer, and that you understand in what hands that high cost of transportation has ever been held. You have promised to see to it in the Department of Labor that women and children shall not work in

those oppressive places where the life is crushed out and the little ones have no opportunity for either life, health, or education. We ask you to consider also the men who toil,—their hours of labor, the terrible restrictions that are placed upon them, the better human influences that might be thrown around them; and we ask of you to consider under what conditions these things have taken place.

You have made few promises concerning the trusts, because you could not make any. Above all, you have promised that there shall be reforms in the monetary market, in currency, in the methods whereby the money of this country is distributed. In this promise you do not know to the full extent—no one can know—what will be encountered. Do you know that for a half-century the chains have been forged and the circle has been narrowed that gives the monetary power and wealth of this country into the hands of the few Titans of commerce; from its steel interests, from its oil interests, from its mines, from its lands, from its manufactories, from its railroad interests, into the hands of half a dozen men? Do you know that the greed of corporations has swallowed up the individuality and personality of thousands and thousands of men who work for those corporations without adequate compensation, or who fall an easy prey to the insidious temptation of the serpent and become themselves monopolists and greed-seekers of wealth and power?

Multi-millionaires are a monstrosity that should never exist in a republic. Millionaires are useless and dangerous, connected with a republican form of government. No man should have more than is required for himself, his household, his dependents, for life and shelter, for food, for education, and for rational enjoyment. To-day witnesses the vast amount of wealth produced in this country and expended in Europe in lavish extravagance, or in our own country in extravagance unparalleled by any Oriental sovereign.

You are called upon to confront the greatest and most powerful giant that any human administration has ever encountered. You expect to make monetary affairs easy. One man can sail across the ocean from Egypt to New York and tie up the money market in a day. You hope to make the issues of this financial crisis a matter of solution by cabinet meetings and congressional enactments such as will make more easy the difficult administration of finance. You are encountering the octopus of the ages. You are to deal with the great arch-enemy of the world. You can not make laws and expatriate yourself, as did Lycurgus in making the people promise that they would not use gold and would not change the laws until he returned.

Gold is not the enemy of the people. Greed, avarice, ambition, love of power—these are the enemies of man, and with these and all the wealth-producing sources of the land in the hands of the few giants that now control the financial situation of the world, the money power

can make and unmake kings, can make and unmake presidents and their cabinets, can rule or ruin, can bring war or peace almost with the waving of the wand.

It is only by the support of a large and growing class of the people of this country, who, in electing you to office, have hoped to remedy these things, that you can expect to succeed; it is only by the larger appeal to the great cry for justice that is abroad in the land, the sense of justice, that you may hope to, in a measure, overcome the evils that are now threatening. And rest assured that the nearer you adhere to right, the nearer you follow the line of duty, the more closely you look to the interests of the people, the more difficulties you will have to encounter from Mammon. But that should be no discouragement. We know that you have all entered upon your official duties—you, Mr. President, and you, each member of the cabinet—with the fullest intention of bearing forward each duty, and adhering to the obligations of your office as clearly as possible. But you do not know what may come. The tempter in the guise of many promises will be yours; the tempter in the guise of many threats will be yours. If you have the moral courage to withstand this tempter, and to rescue the nation from the grasp that Mammon holds at the present moment, you will be a *greater man* than this nation has ever produced. It was nothing for George Washington to refuse to be king, when they were fighting to escape from the tyranny of kings and the thralldom of monarchies; it was nothing for a man to go step by step, at first almost blindly, hoping to lead the people into a peace that would bring about the preservation of the Union, not knowing at first that it was God's way to abolish chattel slavery—one could do no less. But it is something—it is something that amounts to the greatest moral effacement of self that the world has ever known—to encounter the combined monetary interests of the world; interests that are sworn to uphold monarchies; interests that are in the places of power in the world; interests that build up and through all these years have builded up the gigantic fortunes the product of all the industries in this country; interests that in one moment can tie up all transportation, can close all banks, can set at naught all industry. If you can successfully meet those issues, you are in direct communication with the Infinite Spirit, and justice and humanity are the watchwords that will forever and forever be an abiding monument in your memory. We are speaking for those who have no other interests in the realm where they now abide than the welfare of this nation under the highest administration; than the welfare of the world under the highest and most potential influence. We speak advisedly when we say that you not only will call all good men and women to your support in their influence and in their prayers and in such aid as they can give, but all the influences of the skies that are intent upon blessing the world, and have a larger view of humanity and a wider extent of the knowledge of justice.

You witness, as you approach this government in its executive department, that all the nations of the earth are making greater preparation for war. You witness that the recent Congress has been asked for appropriation for two large battleships as further evidence of the warlike prowess of this nation that under certain advice wished to become and maintain itself as a "world power" on the basis of aggressive warfare. You are aware that in the midst of Peace Congresses and a large number of people whose moral influence is exerted for disarmament, greater preparations for war and more subtle and more destructive agencies of war are being continually manufactured and continually tested and observed by the "enlightened" nations of the world. To the credit of your Secretary of State, he is reported to have said at a recent peace meeting that this nation ought to be the first nation, from its moral position, from its great resources, from its strength, to declare for disarmament. If the Secretary of State said that (and we hope he did), then there is another proposition before you, and that is, will your influence steadfastly go towards the increase of provocations for war, of preparation for war, of adhering to certain conditions that will inevitably invite war; or will there come forth a strong moral influence that shall be felt from all the ambassadors that are sent from this country in the shape of a speedy understanding between the nations of the earth for disarmament and for a permanent peace congress? If your voice can go forth, strengthened by all the force, morally and intellectually, of the government and the people, then indeed will there come such a wide and beautiful glory from this administration that shall go over the world like the divine olive branch of the great Lover of peace.

I do not hope for these things at once. I know that you can not, in a day, in a year, in four years, or in any specified length of human time, bring to the world the perfect solution of the problem of Dives, of Cæsars, and the problem of war. But I am speaking to you from the hearts of thousands who do not have a voice; I am speaking to you from that stratum of human life that has little influence except a vote, and a vote only in connection with certain primary conditions of politics that can not now be evaded or avoided. But around your head and over those who share the concerns of the nation will ever hover a peace born of justice. We want no peace that is the abject acknowledgment of the tyranny of any kind of human power, whether it be wealth or the force of arms. The militarism of the old world has no place on the soil of this that should be the herald of all glad tidings to the world—this nation.

And now that the opportunity is here, that this great crisis is upon you and you must meet it, that all the energies of your government and your advisers will be required to confront, may this voice that speaks to you ask that you yield not one portion of your sense of justice; that you yield not one portion of your sense of righteousness;

that you yield not one iota of what you think and feel is the duty of the highest officer in the nation. For, as you deal with the present situation, so will you deal with this nation, so will you deal with humanity, and so will the messengers of God and the Recording Angel call you to account at the great bar of conscience, which is the judgment seat of the Lord.

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And now may Heaven bless this nation; bless and strengthen those who administer it. May it bless you in your homes, in your daily life, in your duties. And may you remember, wherever you may be, that truth that is so surpassing, that Infinite love and angel guidance are forever near. May Heaven bless this congregation. May you follow the teachings that you have received, and until such time as summoned to meet again, may you be blessed and prospered in the truest and highest sense of the understanding of prosperity. Peace and good will to all the children of God. Amen.